



GREETINGS BY

MR. OMAR SWEENEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR-JSIF

AT THE

ICDP II-Summer Transition Workshop

for

Norwood, St. James

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021

Salutations:

- Master of Ceremonies
- The Honourable Dr. Horace Chang - Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of National Security, and Member of Parliament for St. James Northwestern,
- Cllr. Joshua Cummings, from the Norwood Division,
- Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin - Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St James,
- Mr. Vernon Ellis - Senior Superintendent of Police/Divisional Commander, for the St. James Police Division,
- Dr. Beverly Scott - Family Therapist, at the Family and Parenting Centre,
- Ms. Danielle Mullings – University of the West Indies,
- Mrs. Precious Hall-Glaze, Teacher at Irwin High School,
- Members of my hard-working JSIF team,
- Members of the media
- Specially Invited Guests,
- and most especially our students who will be entering grade seven this September.

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

It is indeed an honour to be able to participate in an event that is earmarked to be the beginning of a transitional moment in the lives of the next cohort of grade 7 students from this community.

The past year has been a very long, and rather unexpected break for our students. Many of you will soon be heading to new schools which might be organized differently from the primary schools that you are coming from. I know that children, parents, and staff are all a little anxious, especially considering all the uncertainty surrounding the reopening of schools to accommodate face-to-face classes in September. A lot has been asked of our children since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020. I can only imagine how much more difficult it will be for students, who are not only entering a new grade but are moving to a new school, with new rules, new teachers, unfamiliar faces and an unfamiliar environment. The transition to high

school is already challenging, but compounded by a period of dramatic change, upheaval and the uncertainty that was brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, the anxieties associated with the transition process have been further exacerbated.

This makes it an opportune time to be hosting this Transition Seminar, which is intended to build the capacity of our new grade 7 students from Norwood, St. James; to support their transition to high school for the upcoming academic year commencing in September 2021.

This initiative is being funded by the Government of Jamaica's Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP II), under its Summer Camp 2021 project. So far, under this project, 7 communities in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, St. James and Clarendon have benefitted from summer interventions, which combined is valued at J\$21 million. Norwood is the last community that will receive an ICDP II summer transition program this year.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering support of our partners who contributed to hosting this event: members of the Norwood Community Development Committee, the Jamaica Constabulary Force, CISOCA, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Dr. Beverly Scott, from the Family and Parenting Centre, Mrs. Precious Hall-Glaze from Irwin High School and Ms. Danielle Mullings from the University of the West Indies.

Thank you for allowing the Jamaica Social Investment Fund to be a part of the positive change that you expect to see in the lives of your students from Norwood.

I urge you all to adhere to the Ministry of Health and Wellness' COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures and break the chain of COVID-19 transmission for everyone's sake, especially our children.

Please enjoy the rest of your day and continue to keep safe.